Robert T. Bockman Bbockman@mcnair.net

BANK OF AMERICA TOWER

1301 GERVAIS STREET, 11th FLOOR COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

MCNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A. ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

173312

www.mcnair.net

POST OFFICE BOX 11390 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211 TELEPHONE (803)799-9800 FACSIMILE (803)376-2219

March 24, 2005

South Carolina Public Service Commission Attn: Docketing Department Post Office Box 11649 Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Application of Melrose Utility Company, Inc. for Adjustments in Rates and Charges for Water and Sewer Services

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed herewith for filing with the Commission please find the original and ten (10) copies of the Application of Melrose Utility Company, Inc., for Adjustments in Rates and Charges for Water and Sewer Services. The Applicant submits this Application in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240 (Supp. 2004); 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-512.4 (Supp. 2004) and 103-712 (1976 and Supp. 2004); and the Commission's rules of practice and procedure.

I would appreciate your clocking in the extra copy of the Application and returning it to me by our courier. Should you have any questions with respect to this Application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Robert T. Bockman

cc: Ms. Liz Oliver Mr. Dan F. Arnett

173312 ACCEPTED Legal 3033-25-05

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

300	III CAROLI	.1 1/1 1			
Docket No. 2	005 - 74	- W/S	8	285	*****
In Re: Application of Melrose Utility Company, Inc., for Adjustments in Rates and Charges for Water and Sewer Services))))	APPLICATION		115 24 PH # 12	

Melrose Utility Company, Inc. ("the Company") submits this Application in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240 (Supp. 2004) and 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-512.4 (Supp. 2004) and 103-712 (1976 and Supp. 2004). By this Application, the Company requests this honorable Commission to approve certain adjustments in the rates and charges for the water and sewer services that the Company provides in its service area in Beaufort County, South Carolina. In support of its requested relief, the Company would respectfully show unto the Commission:

- 1. On October 28, 2004, the Company filed a Notice of Intent to file this Application by letter, pursuant to the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240(A) (Supp. 2004).
- 2. That the Company is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of South Carolina. The general nature of the Company's business is to provide "general utility services on Daufuskie Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina."
- 3. That the stock of the Company is wholly owned by Daufuskie Island Properties, LLC, as approved by the Commission's Order No. 2002-823, issued in Docket No. 2002-210-W/S, dated December 5, 2002.

- 4. The Company is a "public utility," as defined in S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-10(3) (Supp. 2004) in that it provides water and sewer services to the public for compensation. Consequently, the Company is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 5. The Company's service area includes those parts of Daufuskie Island which are bounded by New River, Morgan Creek, Ramshorn Creek Cooper River Intracoastal Waterway, and the Calibogue Sound. The subdivisions or tracts included in the Company's service area are Bloody Point, Oak Ridge Tract, Melrose, Haig Point, and Webb Tract.
- 6. Within its service area, the Company provides water supply and distribution service and sewer collection and treatment services to residential and commercial customers. In addition, the Company provides water service for landscaping and golf course irrigation.
- 7. The monthly rates and charges for the Company's water and sewer services were approved by the Commission in Order No. 87-1060, issued in Docket No. 86-392-W/S, dated September 25, 1987. The Company's existing rates and charges are depicted on Exhibit A, which is attached to this Application and incorporated in it by reference. Based on the Company's operating experience for the 12 months ending November 30, 2004, those rates and charges resulted in a net operating loss of \$105,256. Despite the Company's efforts to manage and operate its utility systems efficiently, the existing rates and charges produce insufficient operating revenue to permit the Company to maintain its financial integrity to enable it to continue to provide an adequate and reasonable quality of service to its customers, to meet its operating expenses and to attract the necessary capital to enable it to finance the improvements necessary to meet regulatory standards.
- 8. The Company has proposed a schedule of monthly rates and charges, which is likewise depicted on Exhibit A to this Application. Based on the Company's operating

COLUMBIA 815333vI

experience for the 12 months ending November 30, 2004, the proposed monthly rates and charges would produce a net operating income for return of \$1,711.56. While the Company's proposed monthly rates and charges produce minimal net operating income for return, and an operating margin of only 0.58%, those rates and charges will enable the Company to progress toward a more stable financial condition than under the existing rates and charges and they will avoid "rate shock" for the Company's customers.

9. The Company proposes to use a test year consisting of the 12 months ending November 30, 2004, and has prepared and attached certain financial and operating information to support its request for approval of adjustments in its rates and charges.

That information consists of the following:

- A. Income and expense statement for the test year (Exhibit B);
- B. Proforma income and expense statement using the proposed rates and charges and as applied to the test year (Exhibit C);
- C. Balance sheet (Exhibit D);
- D. Depreciation Schedule and Plant Investment (Exhibit E);
- E. Number of Present and Expected Customers (Exhibit F);
- F. Cost justifications for proposed tap fees (Exhibit G); and
- G. Sample customer bill form (Exhibit H).
- H. List of DHEC permits issued to the Company or its predecessors and affiliates for operation of the water and sewer systems (Exhibit I).
- 10. The Company respectfully requests that the Commission waive the provisions in its rules and regulations which would require the Company to submit a letter of approval from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ("DHEC") for operation of the systems. Because of the vintage of the systems and the state of the engineering records for

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them, the Company has been unable to locate such letter notwithstanding its diligent efforts to do

so. With the exception of certain issues relating to fire flow capacity which the Company and

DHEC have resolved, the Company submits that the systems are currently operating in

compliance with DHEC's regulations for water and wastewater systems.

11. The Company's performance bond currently on file at the Commission satisfies

the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-720 (Supp. 2004) and the rules and regulations of the

Commission.

12. A current map depicting the Company's service area is on file with the

Commission.

13. That all correspondence and communication with respect to this Application be

directed to the undersigned counsel.

WHEREFORE, having fully set forth the grounds for its proposed adjustments in rates

and charges, Melrose Utility Company, Inc., respectfully requests this honorable Commission to

approve those proposed rates and charges and to grant such other and further relief as is just and

proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert T. Bockman

McNair Law Firm, P.A.

Post Office Box 11390

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

(803) 799-9800

By: Rolut T. Bor

March 24, 2005

Columbia, South Carolina

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MELROSE UTILITY COMPANY APPROVED AND PROPOSED RATES AND CHARGES

Residentia	l Rates		Present Rate	Proposed Rate
(a)	Water			
()		1 Tapping fee & 3/4" Meter w/box	500	650
		2 Base monthly Charge 0-7500 gl usage	15	25
		3 Each 1000 gallons over 7,500 gls. Per month	1.2	1.77
(b)	Sewer			
(5)	•••••	1 Tapping fee and service lateral	500	800
		2 Base Monthly Charge	15	25
		3 Each 100 gallons over 7500 gls per month	0.96	1.41
Commerci	ial Rates	<i>.</i>		
(a)	Water		0.770	0.50
		1 Tapping fee per hotel/Inn room	250	
		2 Tapping fee per cottage	400	
		3 Tapping fee up to 1.5" Water meter	500	
		4 Tapping fee for 2" or 3" Meter	1500	
		5 Tapping fee for 6" meter	3500	
		6 Base Monthly Charge 0-7500 gallons	21	
		7 Each 1000 gallons over 7500 gls. Per month	1.2	1.41
(b)	Sewer			
. ,		1 Tapping fee per Inn Room	250	250
		2 Tapping fee per Cottage	400	400
		3 Tapping Fee 4" - 6" diameter lateral	500	650
		4 Base Monthly Charge	21	33
		5 Each 1000 gallons over 7500 gls per month	0.96	1.41

Melrose Utilities Company YTD 2003

Income Statement

Availability Fees	77,331.73
Water-Residence	15,724.12
Water-Commercial	21,934.80
Water-Commercial/2Uts	21,895.20
Water-Min Use	32,175.00
Irrigation- Commercial	13,862.80
Irrigation- Residence	2,486.80
Sewer - Residence	14,608.16
Sewer- Commercial	20,027.76
Sewer- Commercial/2Uts	22,212.24
Sewer- Min Use	32,085.00
Tap Fees- Water	1,450.00
Tap Fees- Sewer	1,450.00
	277,243.61

Expenses

Salaries	166,019.18
Admin/Legal Fees	13,597.96
Departmental Supplies	34,019.23
Equipment Rental	2,182.65
Equipment Repair	29,211.25
Maintenance Contracts	27,655.03
Misc	3,432.75
Service Contracts	22,420.13
Telephone	1,215.54
Electric	44,000.04
Gas and Oil	1,114.44
Utility Water	425.28
Testing	9,859.02
Insurance	3,492.88
Licenses	2,200.00
Bad Debt	4,378.05
Property Tax	3,000.00
	368,223.43

Income Tax Depreciation	233.03 40,354.94
Net Expenses	408,811.40
Net Profit	-131,567.79

Pro Forma Analysis

		Based on current customers Test Year		Adjustments	Test Year	
		at approved rates		For proposed	At proposed	
		12 months to 11/30/04	Customers	rates	rates	
		10 1 1/30/04	Oustorners			
Availability		95,580	0.4	169,800	169,800	
	er-Residence	22,915	61	36,600	36,600	
	er-Commercial	46,709	71	56,232	56,232	
	mercial/2Uts	0				
Water-Min U		270 10,170	19	15,048	15,048	
Irrigation- C		4,398	13	7,800	7,800	
Irrigation- R		4,396	61	7,000	7,000	
Sewer - Res		0	71			
		0	7 1			
	nmercial/2Uts	270				
Sewer- Min		3,750	7.5			
Tap Fees- \		3,550	7.5 7.1	9,100	9,100	
Tap Fees- S	Sewer		- 1.1	294,580	294,580	
		187,612 187,612		294,300	294,360	
		187,012				
Expenses						
•	Salaries	122,075			122,075	
	Admin/Legal Fees	4,160			4,160	
	Departmental				4	
	Supplies	12,905			12,905	
	Equipment Rental	5,907			5,907	
	Equipment Repair Maintenance	22,746			22,746 15,369	
	Contracts	15,369 4,295			4,295	
	Misc Santing Contracts	25,233			25,233	
	Service Contracts	25,233			865	
	Telephone	21,846			21,846	
	Electric	1,198			1,198	
	Gas and Oil	811			811	
	Utility Water	0			0	
	Testing	12,197			12,197	
	Insurance Licenses	7,674			7,674	
	Bad Debt	4,378			4,378	
	Property Tax	3,042.44			3,042.44	
	Property rax	264,701.44	_		264,701.4	
		204,701.44			_o-,,, o 1	
	Income Tax	233			233	
	Depreciation	27,934			27,934	
	Doproduction	27,004			_ , .	
	Net Expenses	292,868.44	_		292,868.4	
	Net Profit	-105,256.4			1,711.56	

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Melrose Utility Company Detail Balance Sheet Showing Year to Date Activity As of Period Ending November 30, 2004, For All Accounts, Level of Detail: Account Number Sorted by Account Number, Include Zero Balance

·	YTD□ Opening□				YTD□ Closing□
Melrose Utilty YTD November 2004	Balance	YTD Debits	YTD Credits	Net Change	Balance
ASSETS					
Assets					
House Bank - Petty Cash					
Depository					
Operating Account					
Payroll -Cash -Default					
Capital -Cash -Default					
Savings -Cash -Default Customer Receivables	105,610.13	252,731.00	294,299.55	-41,568.55	64,041.58
AvailReceiv -Default	100,010.13	232,731.00	254,255.55	-41,000.00	04,041.00
Acc Re Other					
Returned Check					
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts		2,612.47	865.71	1,746.76	1,746.76
Insurance					
Licenses	2,939.98				2,939.98
Miscellaneous		58,261.84	58,261.84		
Workmen's Comp					
Health Insurance	404 407 70	75 000 00	400 007 40	CO 044 04	055 400 50
Intercompany DIRS	-194,487.72	75,892.68	136,807.49	-60,914.81 3,000.00	-255,402.53 3,347.10
Deposits	347.10	3,000.00		3,000.00	3,347.10
Total Assets	-85,590.51	392,497.99	490,234.59	-97,736.60	-183,327.11
Fixed Assets					
Building	17,912.26				17,912.26
Building Improvements					
Construction in Progress	2,100.00	26,862.00		26,862.00	28,962.00
Land Improvements	400,516.67				400,516.67
Machinery & Equipment	108,058.05				108,058.05
Furniture & Fixtures	1,193.00 -304,109.18				1,193.00 -304,109.18
Accumulated Depreciation- Furniture & Fixture Deposits	-304,109.16				-347.10
Organizational Costs	41,266.99				41,266.99
Accumulated Depreciation- Organizational Costs	-82.37				-82.37
Total Fixed Assets	266,508.32	26,862.00	0.00	26,862.00	293,370.32
Total ASSETS	180,917.81	419,359.99	490,234.59	-70,874.60	110,043.21
	100,317.01	410,000.00	100,204.00		
LIABILITIES					
Liabilities					
Notes Payable Accounts Payable Other AP Trade					
Accounts Payable - FMC Fees					
Accounts Payable- Due to DIRS					
Accrued Property Taxes	8,647.91	27,290.00	27,289.38	-0.62	8,647.29
Accrued Sales Tax		890.08		-890.08	-890.08

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Melrose Utility Company

Detail Balance Sheet Showing Year to Date Activity
As of Period Ending November 30, 2004, For All Accounts, Level of Detail: Account Number Sorted by Account Number, Include Zero Balance

Accrued Salaries & Wages Accrued PTO Accrued Workmenas Comp Accrued Annual Bonus Accrued 401K Accrued Federal Tax Withhold	ling	1,000.00				1,000.00
Accrued Miscellaneous		12,043.41	13,774.21	1,730.80	-12,043.41	
	Total Liabilities	21,691.32	41,954.29	29,020.18	-12,934.11	8,757.21
	Total LIABILITIES	21,691.32	41,954.29	29,020.18	-12,934.11	8,757.21
EQUITY						
Equity	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~					
Suspense						
Paid In Capital		548,642.02				548,642.02
Paid Dividends		266,537.92				266,537.92
Common Stock		1,000.00				1,000.00
Retained Earnings- Current Ye	ear	-129,715.79				-129,715.79
Retained Earnings - Prior Peri	iods	-527,237.66				-527,237.66
	Total Equity	159,226.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	159,226.49
Year-to-date Net Income					-57,940.49	-57,940.49
	Total EQUITY	159,226.49	0.00	0.00	-57,940.49	101,286.00
Total Liabilities and Equity		180,917.81	41,954.29	29,020.18	-70,874.60	110,043.21

MELROSE UTILITY COMPANY DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE

895.61 \$ 7,809.75 \$ 8.72 \$ 10,102.51 \$ 895.61 238.60 \$ 1,193.00 8.72 \$ 10,424.05 \$ 601.50 601.50 \$ 1,606.01 2.67 \$ 10,424.05 \$ 601.50 90.00 \$ 2,17.80 2.42 \$ 1,822.3 \$ 478.64 1,675.00 \$ 3,484.00 2.08 \$ 30,016.00 \$ 1,675.00 20,287.25 \$ 176,994.32 8.72 \$ 4469.27 \$ 1,675.00 372.75 \$ 2,986.73 8.01 \$ 4,469.27 \$ 372.75 372.75 \$ 2,986.73 8.02 \$ 1,681.08 \$ 2,656.10 \$ 1,681.08 367.75 \$ 1,360.59 3.72 \$ 1,665.41 \$ 367.75 365.75 \$ 1,360.59 3.72 \$ 1,665.41 \$ 367.75 670.29 \$ 5,422.65 8.09 \$ 1,280.26 \$ 670.29 1,414.25 \$ 7,071.26 \$ 7.34 \$ 75.22 457.92 \$ 2,89.60 \$ 7.01 \$ 7.24 457.92 \$ 4,386.90 6.51 \$ 2,446.28 \$ 670.29
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889.67
\$ 475.29 5.51 \$ 387.30
3.09 3.191.14
\$ 2,610.14 2.84 \$ 1,066.11
2.80 \$ 3,255.10
6
6
346,47 \$ 794,42 0.59 \$ 4,591,45 \$
338.75 \$ 669.38 0.50 \$ 4,685.63 \$
\$263,550.32

Accum Dep = 12/31/02 - Acq Date X Acc Dep per year. Took any negative book value to 0.

Utility Customers- Melrose

Availability - 274
Water/Sewer Residence - 46
Water/Sewer Commercial -66
Irrigation Residence - 10
Irrigation Commercial - 11

Utility Customers - Bloody Point

Availability - 84
Water/Sewer Residence - 10
Water/Sewer Commercial -6
Irrigation Residence - 6
Irrigation Commercial - 6

Total AV- 358

Total Water/Sewer Residence - 56

Total Water/Sewer Commercial - 72

Total Irrigation - 33

Total- 519

Inactive AV accounts:

BP: 15 MR: 28

MELROSE UTILITY COMPANY

COST JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED TAP FEES *

RESIDENTIAL

WATER	SERVICE
-------	----------------

SEWER SERVICE

Labor Costs	\$300.00	Labor Costs	\$400.00
Materials Cost	250.00	Materials Cost	300.00
Miscellaneous Cost	100.00	Miscellaneous Cost	100.00
Total	\$650.00	Total	\$650.00

COMMERCIAL

WATER SERVICE

SEWER SERVICE

Labor Costs	\$300.00	Labor Costs	\$300.00
Materials Cost	250.00	Materials Cost	250.00
Miscellaneous Cost	100.00	Miscellaneous Cost	100.00
Total	\$650.00	Total	\$650.00

WATER SERVICE (2" or 3" Meter)

Labor Costs	\$600.00
Materials Cost	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Cost	200.00
Total	\$1,800.00

WATER SERVICE (6" Meter)

Labor Costs	\$1,500.00
Materials Cost	2,100.00
Miscellaneous Cost	400.00
Total	\$4,000.00

Customer's Copy

Melrose Utility Co. PO Box 23285 Eilton Head Isl, SC 29925

PREV BAL: 0.00

173.80

Used Prev Pres Charge 148420 270100 418520 Irrig-Commercia

Current Balance: 178.80

Attn: Willam Haley P. O. Box 6151 Hilton Head Isl, SC 29938

Hilton Head Ocean Front Sales Location ID: SLCondoIrr at Sandy Ln Condos Irrigation,

Bill Date: 9/30/2004

Account # 42700

Please detach and return lower portion with payment

Bill Date: 9/30/2004

Location ID: SLCondoIrr at Sandy Ln Condos Irrigation, Account # 42700

Hilton Head Ocean Front Sales

Attn: Willam Haley P. O. Box 6151

Hilton Head Isl, SC 29938

Please return with payment to:

Paid \$531.60 on 06-25

Current Balance: 178.80

Melrose Utility Co. PO Box 23285

Hilton Head Isl, SC 29925

Amount of this payment:

PREV BAL: 0.00

178.80

Company's Copy

Used Pres Prev Charge 148420 418520 Irrig-Commercia 270100

Account # 42700 Location ID: SLCondoIrr at Sandy Ln Condos Irrigation,

Hilton Head Ocean Front Sales

Attn: Willam Haley

P. O. Box 6151 Hilton Head Isl, SC 29938

Bill Date: 9/30/2004

Current Balance: 178.80

3rd Quarter Meter Readings 843-341-4884 tmerchant@daufuskieresort.com

Customer's Copy

Melrose Utility PO Box 23285 Hilton Kead Isl, SC 29925

PREV BAL: 712.08

55.80

53.64

Charge Prev Pres Used Water-Residence 374740 406330 31590 Sewer-Residence 374740 406330 31590

The second secon

Current Balance: 821.52

Charles Stafford 492 Mill Run Rd Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Location ID: 0214new at Lot 214 Melrose,

Bill Date: 9/30/2004

Account # 31301

Please detach and return lower portion with payment

Bill Date: 9/30/2004

Account # 31301 Location ID: 0214new at Lot 214 Melrose,

Charles Stafford 492 Mill Run Rd Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Current Balance: 821.52

Please return with payment to:

Paid \$90.00 on 10-24

Melrose Utility PO Box 23285 Hilton Head Isl, SC 29925

Amount of this payment: __

Company's Copy PREV BAL: 712.08

Dsed Charge Prev Pres 55.80 31590 Water-Residence 374740 406330 53.64 Sewer-Residence 374740 406330 31590

Account # 31301 Location ID: 0214new at Lot 214 Melrose,

Charles Stafford 492 Mill Run Rd

Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Bill Date: 9/30/2004

Current Balance: 821.52

MELROSE UTILITY COMPANY

OPERATING PERMITS ISSUED BY SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Permit(s) To Operate

Water Distribution		
2-Sep-87	Cottages, Beachclub, & Jack's	
1-Oct-87	Inn & Tennis Couts	
19-Nov-87	Maintenance Area	
4-Aug-88	Phase 2, 3 hydrants, 1 tap	
10-Feb-89	Phase 1, 226 taps	
5-Apr-89	Driftwood, 2 hydrants, 3 taps	
10-Aug-89	Melrose Gatehouse, 20 taps	
14-May-91	Bloody Pt Water System & Well # 1	
14-May-89	Bloody Pt Water System & Well # 2	
7-Jun-91	Bloody Pt W/W Treatment Plant Well	
24-Jun-91	Bloody Pt Water Lines & 7 hydrants	
30-Jan-92	Bloody Pt Hydrant & 10 taps	
22-May-91	Bloody Pt Golf Course Irri Grow-in	
5-Oct-93	Bloody PT WRC Ground Water Use	
30-Jun-94	Bloody Pt Ground Water Use	
6-Jan-95	Bloody Pt Shallow Well & Ownership Transfer	
29-Mar-95	Bloody Pt Well # 1 & 2 Operating Permits	
Sewerage Collection		
5-Feb-87	W/W Treatment Plant Permit To Operate	
2-Sep-87	Cottages, Cart Barn, & Store, 16 services	
1-Oct-87	Inn Grinder Pump & Master Station	
19-Nov-87	Maintenance Area Sewer & Force Main	
26-Feb-88	Cooper River Landing Construction Permit	
4-Aug-88	Phase 2, 1 tap	
10-Feb-89	Phase 1, 226 taps	
13-Mar-89	Efluent Transmission Line, WWTP to Melrose	
5-Apr-89	Driftwood, 2 hydrants, 31 taps	
10-Aug-89	Melrose Gatehouse, 20 lots	
21-May-91	Bloody Point WWTP	
24-Jun-91	Efluent Transmission Line, WWTP to BPt Golf Course	
30-Jan-92	Bloody Pt Lot Services, 5 services	
6-Jul-98	Efluent Discharge Permit to HP/MUCWWTP	
24-Aug-98	Efluent Discharge Permit to MUC for BPt WWTP	
24-Mar-00	Daufauski Island Conference Center System	